

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 4, as amended, and new independent claim 9 are before the Examiner for consideration.

1. To obtain expedited issuance of the case, applicants are restricting the claims to the subject matter of allowed claims 2 to 4. The Examiner indicated that claim 2 would have to be written in independent form. New claim 9 is a combination of claims 1 and 2, which have been canceled. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to depend from new claim 9. Non-elected claims 5 to 8 are canceled.

2. This is to acknowledge that applicants' representative called the Examiner on July 28, 2003, to conduct a telephone interview. A proposal was made by applicants to amend claim 1 to recite the subject matter of claims 2 (the elected species), 5, and 7 (the two non-elected species). The Examiner declined to consider such an amendment at this time (after Final Rejection) because the two nonelected species had not been examined. Accordingly, the claims have been revised as indicated above.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is asked also to clarify on the record whether a certified copy of the Japanese priority document is in the file. The case is a national stage filing of a PCT application and applicants see no acknowledgment or indication in the record noting absolutely that a certified copy of the priority document was transmitted by the International Bureau; see the Office Action Summary for the Office Action mailed December 17, 2002.

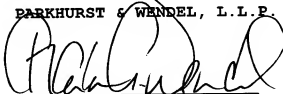
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Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.



Charles A. Wendel

Registration No. 24,453

July 30, 2003  
Date

CAW:EC/ame

Attorney Docket No.: NSUG:849

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